

Miss Sally Francis was well the oth[er d]ay

[Addressed]     Mr Ja. Johnston Pettigrew  
                     Hillsborough  
                     N. Carolina

*Mary Williams Bryan to Ebenezer Pettigrew*     A&H

Raleigh April 20<sup>th</sup> 1840—

My dear Brother

I was very happy to learn by your letter of the 13 inst. rec<sup>d</sup> night before last that you had recovered your health and feel much gratified by the pleasure you express at my recovery—I have indeed suffered greatly since I saw you but by the blessing of God I am permitted again to walk abroad & enjoy the works of his creation, at this most delightful season of the year all Nature seems teeming with joy & gladness—

I think you should not complain if you can walk eight miles a day, I am almost out of breath by walking even to the Church which is the farthest & almost the only one I have taken since you left here—

I regret exceedingly that you cannot spare the time to make us a visit for a two-fold reason, the first is a desire to enjoy your society & the second that you should see more of your daughters and assist by your counsel and parental authority in moulding their characters to your wishes—We have but a short time to live in this world & why should we make such slaves of ourselves? Our children will be neither wiser better happier nor more grateful for it—the experience of the world teaches us that children seldom regard the sacrifices of their parents.— I am also very anxious that the Marys should be at a good school, before Miss Whitwell resigned (knowing there was not a good school here for girls as far advanced) I requested Brother William to enquire & let me know about the schools in Washington City & Georgetown, he did so, I showed you the letter &c and I thought that you & Mr Bryan concluded that it would be better to keep them here another year attending to their studies & then send them to Washington during the Summer session—I don't think that they could stand the cold of a northern winter, for altho' M B has more strength of constitution that M Pettigrew she has not as much prudence & care and consequently would be liable to suffer

I hoped there would be a good school here before this but I believe there is no prospect of it at present.